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RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session in 1994, and by the General Assembly at its resumed forty-eighth and its forty-ninth sessions, namely during the period since the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council and of the General Assembly.

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PART I

A. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSION, 1994

1994/1 Integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

3. In paragraph 1, the Council decides that the Commission on Transnational Corporations should become a commission of the Trade and Development Board and be renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations.

4. Since UNCTAD and ECE share the same duty station, the Joint ECE/CTC Unit has been disbanded. However cooperation between ECE and UNCTAD in the field of transnational corporations will be extended to a wider range of sectors.

1994/2 Work programme in the field of population

5. See paragraphs 25-26 below.

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS RESUMED FORTY-EIGHTH AND ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSIONS

48/215 Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

6. The second Road Safety Week, organized under the auspices of the Inland Transport Committee from 27 March to 2 April 1995 will contribute to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Young road users have been chosen as the target group for this year's campaign.

49/97 Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

7. In operative paragraphs 2 and 3, the Assembly:

> "2. Urges all Governments, competent regional economic integration organizations and the executive heads of the competent specialized agencies and of other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to present their views to the Secretary-General on institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade;
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> 3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on further institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade and, in preparing that report, to solicit the views of all Governments, competent regional economic integration organizations and the executive heads of the competent specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade."

49/101 United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

8. In the resolution the Assembly notes the valuable contribution of the ECE Working Party on the Facilitation of International Trade Procedures to the successful conclusion of the Symposium, and invites all States to take an active part in the implementation of the concept of trade efficiency based on open data interchange systems and internationally recognized standards with the cooperation, as appropriate, of the private sector and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system.

9. The Executive Secretary met with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director of ITC to discuss the follow-up to the Symposium and future cooperation. The positive outcome of the Symposium creates many opportunities for synergy between the three organizations in their efforts to develop trade and global commerce. It is recognized that trade facilitation techniques and UN/EDIFACT contribute to more efficient trade practices and that the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) is the recognized focal point where trade facilitation measures and standards are developed. On the other hand, UNCTAD is in a unique position for promoting the results of WP.4, in particular through its Trade Efficiency programme. ITC has special competence in providing market information. Thus in coordinating the activities it has been agreed to use UN/EDIFACT standards in the implementation of Trade Point Network and that activities related to national Trade Facilitation and Trade Efficiency bodies should not be duplicated.

49/102 Transit environment in the land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

10. In the resolution the Assembly recognizes that the overall socio-economic development efforts of these countries, seeking to enter world markets through the establishment of a multicountry transit system, are impeded by a lack of territorial access to the sea as well as by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and emphasizes the importance of strengthening international support measures to address further the problems of these countries. The Assembly:

> "1. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in consultation with the Governments concerned and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and, in accordance with approved programme priorities and within existing financial resources, to elaborate a programme for improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours and to make a comprehensive analysis of the transit system for Central Asian countries, paying particular attention to the development of all new, appropriate and feasible alternative transit routes and corridors, including the shortest ones;
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> ...
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> 3. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations referred to in the present resolution, to study

the possibility of holding, within existing financial resources, a regional symposium for the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, with the participation of other interested States, on transport and transit issues in the region, upon completion of the comprehensive analysis and study requested in paragraph 1 of the present resolution and before this issue is taken up by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session."

11. The ECE administers a considerable number of global United Nations Conventions governing transit, temporary importation procedures as well as general transport facilitation measures, such as the TIR Convention or the Convention on the Harmonization of Border Controls. In view of this expertise and the priority accorded by ECE member countries to assistance measures for countries in transition, the ECE can, and is ready to, within existing resources, assist UNCTAD in the elaboration of a programme for improving the efficiency of transit traffic in the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia.

12. The ECE secretariat has prepared a contribution to the UNCTAD Symposium for Land-Locked and Transit Developing Countries on experience gained in the region in the field of land transport facilitation.

49/106 Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

13. In the resolution the Assembly takes note of Commission decisions B (49) and C (49) and of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1993-1994 and·

"1. Invites the United Nations system to continue its support for the efforts of economies in transition as they transform their economies and integrate them into the world economy through, inter alia, adoption of the international standards and practices of countries with market economies;

2. Welcomes the measures undertaken by the UniteD Nations system to strengthen its abilities in response to General Assembly resolution 48/181 on the economies in transition, and calls upon the United Nations system to continue to conduct analytical activities, and to provide policy advice and technical assistance to the economies in transition, tailored to each country's respective stage of economic transformation;

3. Calls upon the United Nations system to continue studying, within the scope of the implementation of the present resolution and while continuing the existing cooperation with relevant international institutions and entities, possible ways of enhancing economic and technical cooperation among countries with economies in transition, as well as with developing countries, identifying how the United Nations system can strengthen cooperation, while avoiding duplication, with a vie to encouraging greater participation by those countries in the world economy."

14. For an account of ECE activities designed to assist the countries in transition in their integration into the European and global economy, since the forty-ninth session, see document E/ECE/1310.

49/108 Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: Industrial development cooperation

15. In operative paragraph 6 the Assembly "calls upon the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system ... to contribute, in the context of their programmes and activities, to achieving the aims and action programmes adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the International Conference on Population and Development, and calls upon them to contribute to the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women".

16. In its decision F (49), the Commission took note with appreciation of the ECE Action Plan to implement Agenda 21 adopted at UNCED (E/ECE/1303). The Plan describes the present and future ECE activities in this area including those related to cooperation aimed at sustainable industrial development. Some of these activities may be mentioned in this context, namely: the programme "Chemical Industry - Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development" (CHEMISEED)", the programme of Metallurgy and Ecology, and the inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology.

17. In its decision A (49) the Commission decided to hold a meeting of experts to consider proposals to convene a possible European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development. The meeting was held on 2 November 1994 (IND/AC.1/2) and following its recommendation the secretariat has prepared an analytical document (IND/AC.1/3) for consideration at the present session of the Commission so that a final decision on the convening of the Forum on identified priority issues could be take at the fiftieth session of the Commission.

49/109 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

18. In paragraph 15 of the resolution the Assembly requests the regional commissions to include in their programme activities for 1995 an item on the preparations for the Conference, with particular emphasis on preparations for he Conference in their respective regions, and to submit a report on those preparations to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.

19. An ECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for Habitat II was held in Geneva on 12 September 1994. The Committee on Human Settlements at its fifty-fifth session in September 1994 agreed to include the preparations for the Habitat II Conference as a distinct programme element in its programme of work. The Committee further established a task force to assist the Committee in carrying out the preparatory work.

49/113 Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

20. In paragraph 2 the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Declaration is widely disseminated by the competent organs and bodies of the United Nations system and to continue to ensure that its principles are incorporated in their programmes and processes, in accordance with paragraphs 32 and 42 of chapter I of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session.

21. The Commission, which has adopted sustainable development as a guiding principle for the activities of all relevant subsidiary bodies, has pursued the dissemination of the principles stemming from the Rio Conference. Its Principal Subsidiary Bodies are promoting these principles by integrating environmental concerns and considerations into projects and programmes in all areas.

22. Sustainable development is a major driving force behind the "Environment for Europe" process and in particular the Sofia Ministerial Conference (October 1995), for which the Commission is assuming the central coordinating role. It is also in the same spirit that the Regional Conference on Transport and Environment, to be held in 1996, is being prepared under ECE auspices.

23. The Commission's efforts to draw up and implement legally binding instruments in the field of environment have been pursued during the past year. These instruments constitute powerful tools to strive for the convergence of environmental and sectoral policies.

24. Through the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics, the Commission gathers experts from both fields to assess the environmental and economic situation in countries in transition and promotes the use of economic instruments for environmental policies. The efforts undertaken by the Commission to review the environmental performance of some of the countries in transition is also in line with the principles stated in Agenda 21.

49/128 Report of the International Conference on Population and Development

25. In the resolution the Assembly:

> "8. Acknowledges the importance of the subregional and regional activities undertaken during the preparations for the Conference, including the regional strategies, plans and declarations adopted as part of this process, and invites the regional commissions, other regional and subregional organizations and the development banks to examine the results of the Conference held at Cairo within their respective mandates, for the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action, at the regional level;
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> 14. Acknowledges that countries with economies in transition should receive temporary assistance for population and development activities in light of the difficult economic and social problems faced by these countries at present, and therefore suggests that the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system should adjust, on this basis, their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action and take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation;
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> 33. Calls upon the programmes of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and funds to provide their full and active support to the implementation of the Programme of Action, particularly at the field level, through the United Nations coordinator system, and invites the relevant specialized agencies to do the same."

26. The Assembly further stressed the importance of continued and enhanced cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system and specialized agencies in the implementation of the Programme of Action, reviewing and where necessary adjusting their programmes and activities, and emphasized the need for follow-up activities to ensure its full and effective implementation, using to the fullest extent possible existing capacity within the United Nations system.

49/153 Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and of the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond

27. In paragraph 4 of Part II of the resolution, the Assembly "requests the regional commissions and other regional organizations to facilitate the adaptation and transfer of global approaches, standards and disability-related technology to the specific needs of the region".

28. During recent years, the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation has convened three workshops on rehabilitation engineering and has prepared the publication "Rehabilitation Engineering" (ECE/ENG.AUT/55, Sales No. 94.II.E.17) with the aim of facilitating the adaptation and transfer of global approaches, standards and disability-related technology to the specific needs of the ECE region.

49/161 Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

29. In the resolution the Assembly expresses its satisfaction with the plans and platforms emanating from the Regional Preparatory Meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women organized by the regional commissions. Paragraph 4 calls again upon Member States to give priority to policies and programmes relating to the theme "Employment, health and education"; such a theme constitutes a major strategic objective of the ECE Regional Platform for Action, namely to "Promote equal treatment between women and men workers and the harmonization of work and family responsibilities", covering employment and earnings, working conditions in the workplace, education and training for women, access to women to entrepreneurship, reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, and health needs of women.

30. Paragraph 32 calls upon UN bodies and specialized agencies to participate in the World Conference and to realign priorities and redirect resources to meet the global priorities identified in the Platform for Action.

31. A first discussion on substantive work and related resources within the ECE will take place at the fiftieth session of the Commission session under provisional agenda item 7(d), in the framework of the follow-up to the Vienna Meeting and as requested in the ECE Platform for Action. The discussion will take place on the basis of the Platform and the full report of the Meeting (E/ECE/RW/HLM/7 and 8).

PART II

A. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSION, 1994

1994/6 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

1994/25 Admission of Armenia as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1994/27 Establishment of a committee on social development within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS RESUMED FORTY-EIGHTH AND ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSIONS

48/237 Observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly

48/261 Decentralization of activities and resources in the fields of energy and natural resources

49/126 Agenda for development

49/127 International migration and development